

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the Abstract with the following new Abstract:

A control circuit, processor and half-bridge are provided for operating electric motors. The half-bridge includes a first electronic switch lying between a supply voltage and a phase tap, and a second electronic switch lying between the phase tap and ground. The control circuit is adapted to control the first and second electronic switches with one out of only three switching signal pairings. The signal pairings consist of (i) the first switch being on and the second switch being off, (ii) the first switch being off and the second switch being on, and (iii) the first and second switches being off. The processor has a signal output port coupled to control the control circuit to select one of the three signal pairings, via one of three possible output signals at the signal output port.